

Appl. No. 09/540,557
Amdt. dated July 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 16, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The examiner objected to claims 11, 14, 18-20 and 22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (See Office Action, Paper No. 4, pages 7 – 8). For the sake of clarity, applicant has decided to cancel all of the claims and rewrite each of these objected claims in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically:

- Claim 25 corresponds to claim 11 including all of the limitations of claims 1 and 8;
- Claim 26 corresponds to claim 14 including all of the limitations of claim 1;
- Claim 27 corresponds to claim 18 including all of the limitations of claim 15;
- Claim 28 corresponds to claim 19 and now depends upon new claim 27;
- Claim 29 corresponds to claim 20 and now depends upon new claim 27; and
- Claim 30 corresponds to claim 22 including all of the limitations of claim 15.

Because all of the pending claims now include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' agent at the telephone number shown below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 501450.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension for time, the Commissioner is requested to grant an extension a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 501450.

Respectfully submitted,

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